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Terrorism Review

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9 August 1984

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*GI TR 84-017
9 August 1984*

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**Terrorism
Review**

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**Terrorism
Review**

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Perspective**UNITA's Foreign Hostages**

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Although many insurgent movements have seized foreign hostages during the course of a conflict, the use of these terrorist tactics by UNITA is unusual in scale and purpose. We estimate that UNITA has captured 250 to 300 foreigners over the past 18 months. The most spectacular operations occurred in March 1983, when UNITA seized 86 foreigners at Alto Catumbela, and in February 1984, when it captured 77 at a diamond mine in Cafunfo. Such operations have been designed to intimidate the foreign supporters of the Angolan Government and to establish a basis for negotiations with foreign officials through which UNITA has gained a degree of international recognition. These are typical insurgent objectives. But UNITA's hostage-taking campaign has also been designed to attract favorable foreign media attention. The use of terrorism for such a purpose is unprecedented.

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**Major UNITA Hostage-taking
Operations, 1983-84**

Date	Location	Number and Nationality
12 June 1984	Quibala	3 Americans, 8 Portuguese and Colombians
25 March 1984	Sumbe	10 Portuguese, 3 Bulgarians
23 February 1984	Cafunfo	46 Portuguese, 16 Britons, 15 Filipinos
December 1983	Cacolo	18 Portuguese, Brazilians, Spaniards, Japanese, Poles, and Italians
13 November 1983	Cazombo-Cavungo	12 Portuguese, 5 Britons, 2 Canadians
September 1983	Cambondo-Calulo	27 Portuguese, Brazilians, and Spaniards
12 March 1983	Alto-Catumbela	66 Czechoslovaks, 20 Portuguese

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Economic Sabotage. UNITA seeks to drive away foreign technicians, who provide the expertise that the government desperately needs to revitalize the country's economy and to ameliorate social conditions. The Czechoslovaks, at least, are convinced that UNITA means business. the few remaining Czechoslovak advisers have been withdrawn either to Luanda or to areas far away from the fighting. many foreigners from Eastern Europe and from Western firms and aid organizations are now restricted to the major towns, especially Luanda, from which they can make but a minimal contribution.

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Hostages of many nationalities attending ceremony organized by leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi, 30 March 1984. [redacted]

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Recognition. UNITA insists on face-to-face negotiations for the release of prisoners with governments it deems to have paid insufficient attention to its interests. Recently a high-ranking British envoy traveled to Jamba to witness the release of British prisoners amidst a well-rehearsed propaganda extravaganza. As a condition for obtaining the release of its citizens, Czechoslovakia issued a communique acknowledging direct negotiations with UNITA. [redacted]

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Publicity. UNITA tries to enhance its international image—tarnished by a continuing reliance on South African support—by bringing in journalists to interview foreign captives. The reports they subsequently file often indicate the prisoners have praised the group's military organization and acknowledged that they have been well treated. Doubt is cast on the Angolan Government's ability to provide effective security. Government military forces are portrayed as undisciplined, unreliable, and unwilling to stand and fight, while UNITA is praised as a disciplined, competent, and humane organization. [redacted]

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Dubious Long-Term Benefits. UNITA's hostage-taking tactics have apparently done little damage to the Angolan economy above what was already being accomplished by UNITA's other acts of economic sabotage. Moreover, we believe, as a means of extorting recognition and favorable publicity such tactics are likely to be counterproductive once the novelty has worn off. In the long term, UNITA's international reputation—like that of any other insurgent group—will depend primarily on how much military success it enjoys. [redacted]

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Although these kidnappings have brought the insurgency some extra attention, major Western news media still run stories on UNITA only infrequently. Furthermore, the continued use of this tactic could turn international opinion against UNITA. Should captives begin succumbing to the ordeal or should Cuban or government forces recapture some of them, the resulting publicity could damage or even destroy the image that Savimbi seeks to convey.

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Highlights**Alert Items**

US Mideast Missions Threatened. Beginning on 18 July, US diplomatic installations in Tunis, Sanaa, and Jidda received threatening letters postmarked in Tunis allegedly written by the Arab Revolutionary Brigades (ARB). The letters allege that Mossad agents posing as US citizens operate out of US diplomatic missions against Arab interests and warn that the group will "take action" unless these agents are evicted. Subsequently, Tunisian authorities intercepted 20 more such letters addressed to various US Embassies in the Middle East. [REDACTED]

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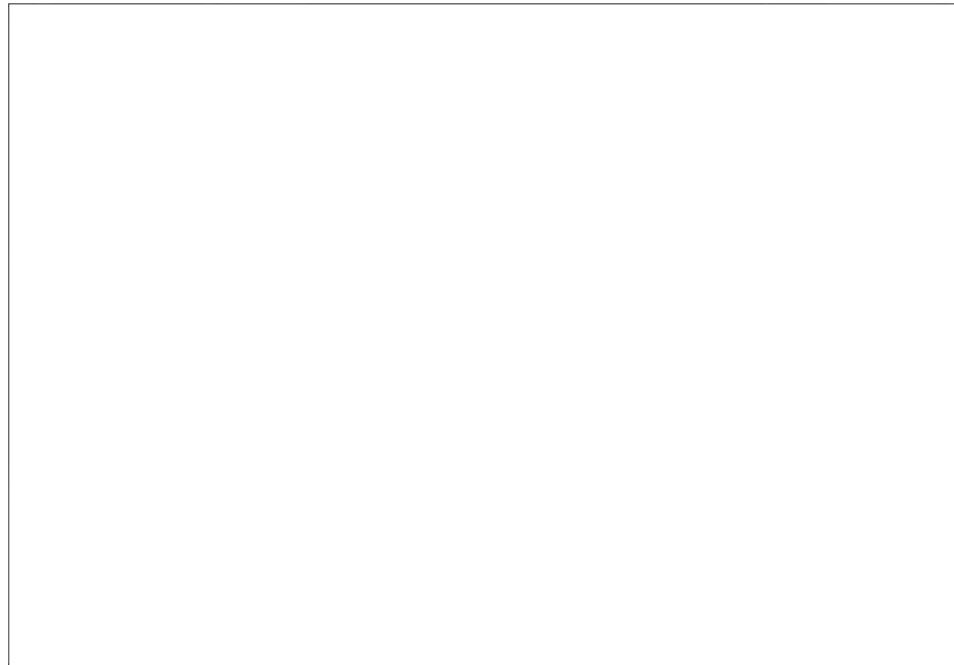
Little is known of the ARB, but we suspect this name has been used by elements of the Abu Nidal Group. That group, however, has not sent unauthenticated warnings before conducting past operations and generally has avoided attacking US targets. Thus, if the letters are authentic, they indicate a disturbing new departure for the group. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] years of experience with unauthenticated threatening letters such as these suggest that the chance they reflect an actual threat is extremely low. [REDACTED]

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Key Indicator

El Salvador: Insurgents Turning to Terrorism. Unable to regain the tactical initiative in the countryside, the guerrillas have increased their attacks on small towns and economic targets—especially agricultural and transportation facilities and public utilities. [redacted]

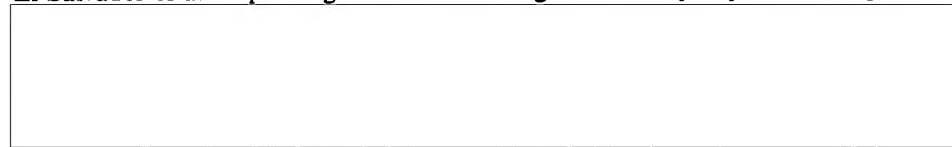
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[redacted] some guerrilla units have renewed the practice of executing captured soldiers and civil defense personnel. [redacted]

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The guerrillas are also trying to create a climate of terror in the capital and other cities. Earlier this week, the insurgents reportedly were warning citizens in eastern El Salvador of an impending “war of blood” against the key city of San Miguel.



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The guerrillas are probably resorting to these tactics because they are having difficulty organizing their planned fall offensive and want to divert Army troops from attacking their strongholds. Such strikes against civilian and economic targets and the resurgence of terrorism in the capital suggest a growing disregard for public sentiment—as well as a greater interest in getting headlines in the foreign media. [redacted]

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Significant Developments

Red Sea: Merchant Vessels Damaged by Mines. Since 27 July, as many as 20 merchant vessels, including three East German ships, have been damaged by underwater mines in both the northern and southern sections of the Red Sea. [redacted]

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On 1 August an anonymous phone caller told the AFP (French news agency) office in Paris that Islamic Jihad had placed 190 mines in the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the Gulf of Suez. Iranian radio subsequently announced that the mining proves

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“the movement’s capability to pursue colonialism everywhere,” and said Islamic Jihad had warned that it will “mine all the ports and shipping lanes in the Islamic region if the arrogant powers insist on their plots against the interests of the Islamic nation.” [redacted]

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On the other hand, [redacted]
Libyan military inventory is known to include several types of nautical mines. The Ghat, a Libyan arms carrier, left the Ethiopian Red Sea port of Assab on 22 July and would have had an opportunity to deposit the mines before passing through the Suez Canal in late July. [redacted]

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El Salvador: FMLN Bank Robbery. In the San Salvador suburb of Soyapango, an attempted bank robbery turned into a major hostage situation. Four men claiming to be members of the FMLN took over the Banco Agricola Comerical after an Army patrol foiled their robbery attempt. One bank guard was killed, and about 100 people who were in the bank were held hostage. The robbers soon released three children and seven women. Later they released the other hostages, all unharmed. The Spanish Government offered the perpetrators temporary asylum in its Embassy, but no country was willing to accept them on a permanent basis. After the search for a protecting country proved fruitless, the would-be robbers surrendered. [redacted]

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India: Airport Blast Kills 29. On 2 August a bomb exploded at the Madras airport in southern India, leaving at least 29 dead and more than 30 others wounded. It is believed to have been the work of Sri Lankan Tamil separatists who intended the bomb to go off in Colombo. [redacted]

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[redacted] The radical Eelam People’s Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) is seen as the likely perpetrator, although all the Tamil groups have denied responsibility. [redacted]

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Venezuelan Skyjacking Ends With Death of Terrorists. Late on 29 July, a Venezuelan DC-9 was hijacked en route from Caracas to Curacao of the Netherlands Antilles. During the 30 hours they controlled the flight, the two hijackers forced the plane to land in Trinidad, Aruba, and finally Curacao. They were members of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of the Haitian People (MDLPH), a small Haitian exile group dedicated to the overthrow of the Duvalier regime. [redacted]

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Originally, the hijackers demanded \$3 million and a variety of arms from the Venezuelan Government in exchange for the release of 82 hostages, but they released some hostages in return for the fulfillment of lesser demands. Early on 31 July, Venezuelan commandos stormed the aircraft, killing both terrorists and releasing all remaining hostages safely. Since the leader of the MDLPH was killed in the incident, this probably signals the end of the group. [redacted]

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Iran: Skyjackers “Surrender” to Evident Sponsors. In Tehran, the three Arab hijackers who diverted an Air France flight on 31 July released the passengers unharmed and surrendered to Iranian authorities on 2 August. The hijackers had

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demanding the release from French prisons of five terrorists convicted of an assassination attempt on former Iranian Premier Bakhtiar, but the French Government refused to cooperate. []

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A statement released by the hijackers was attributed to the "Islamic Organization for the Liberation of Jerusalem," a hitherto unknown group. Available evidence, however, suggests that Iran was behind the hijacking. Released passengers claim that the submachineguns, explosives, and handguns which the terrorists brandished in Tehran were not seen during the plane's previous stops in Geneva, Beirut, and Cyprus—suggesting they were given the weapons after arriving in Tehran. Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, however, has since asserted that Shia sympathizers gave the hijackers the weapons during their stopover in Beirut. In any case, the hijackers—who were driven away from the scene in a Mercedes limousine—have applied for and apparently been granted political asylum in Iran.

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Although Iran has denied arming the hijackers, its behavior toward France suggests its complicity. After the hijackers surrendered, Iranian President Khamenei made a speech in which he condemned the French refusal to free the five imprisoned terrorists. []

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Spain: Iranian Terrorism Revealed. When the Spanish police arrested four Iranian terrorists on 23 July, they not only forestalled a plot to attack or hijack a Saudi airliner in Madrid, they also gathered enough evidence to charge the group with responsibility for the following five incidents:

- A bombing at the Iraqi Cultural Center in Madrid on 21 September 1982, which caused considerable damage but no casualties.
- An attempt to bomb the French Consulate in Barcelona on 27 January 1983. The bomb had been placed in the waiting room, but French police moved it outside to the street moments before it exploded, causing only minor damage and no injuries.
- A rocket grenade attack which destroyed two vehicles parked in front of the US Embassy in Madrid on 4 February 1983.
- The bombing on 5 April 1983 in Madrid of a part of Rentir Park that is frequently used as a meeting place by activist anti-Khomeini Iranian emigres. Two persons were injured.
- A rocket grenade attack against a Kuwaiti airliner at the Madrid airport on 13 September 1983. The grenade missed. []

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The terrorist operations were at least facilitated by the Iranian Embassy. One of the four arrested terrorists worked for the Embassy, and Spanish authorities have photographs of all four of them meeting with a certain attache who has consequently been expelled. The group may also have had some connection to two members of the Iranian-sponsored Dawa Party who were arrested at Rome airport

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on 18 May 1984 for illegal possession of plastic explosives; they were bound for Madrid. Spanish and French police are investigating the possibility that the four terrorists may also have been involved in operations in France.

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France: European Space Agency Headquarters Bombed. In Paris, a powerful bomb exploded in the headquarters of the European Space Agency, causing serious damage to the building and slightly injuring seven people. The attack occurred less than 48 hours before the scheduled launch of a rocket containing two communications satellites. The Ciro Rizzato Combat Unit of Action Directe (AD) claimed responsibility for the attack, the fifth AD bombing in the last month. The group is obviously striking back in response to the recent arrests of several AD members.

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**Angola:
UNITA's Urban
Terrorism Gambit**

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The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has long employed terrorism selectively against the Marxist regime of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) to augment its more traditional guerrilla tactics. UNITA, which hopes to force the regime into a power-sharing arrangement, believes terrorism will help it undermine the regime's ability and will to prosecute the war. Until lately, UNITA had focused its efforts in rural areas and provincial towns. Since April of this year, however, UNITA has markedly amplified its use of terrorist tactics in urban areas, targeting both regime officials and foreign nationals supporting the government. UNITA has avoided causing indiscriminate casualties among the local population.

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UNITA's Rationale

In April, UNITA—which controls roughly one-third of Angola and operates in more than another third—announced that it would open a major urban terrorism campaign in the big towns. An urban terrorism campaign would complement UNITA's longstanding terrorist tactics of kidnaping foreign workers and advisers and destroying foreign-owned property in both urban and rural areas of Angola. According to a communique, the new operations were intended to destroy the center of Angola's economic infrastructure, eliminate MPLA officials and Cuban advisers, and create insecurity in the remaining bastions of regime forces. UNITA leaders have since further explained the goals of their urban terrorist campaign:

- UNITA hopes to undermine foreign support for the Luanda regime. UNITA has publicly labeled Luanda's Cuban, Soviet, and East German backers as the main roadblocks to a political solution in Angola.

UNITA has claimed that after its most spectacular attack—the destruction of a Cuban residence in Huambo City with a car bomb on 19 April 1984—Cuban and Angolan forces engaged in a three-hour firefight ended only by the intervention of a senior Angolan officer.

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- UNITA leaders have indicated they want to wage their campaign throughout Angola, thereby demonstrating UNITA's reach. UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has threatened that if the regime continues to refuse to negotiate, UNITA will conduct terrorist operations in Luanda by yearend.

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- Jonas Savimbi believes there is a split in the regime between hardliners bent on a military solution and others willing to negotiate with UNITA. He may hope terrorism will either deepen this division or reduce the intransigence of the hardline faction.

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Recent Operations

While we do not know how many victims UNITA's terrorist attacks have claimed, the Cubans apparently have borne the brunt of UNITA's urban attacks thus far. UNITA has also killed a number of regime officials, and the Soviets may have suffered some casualties. UNITA has kidnaped citizens of many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Portugal. Some recent UNITA terrorist operations are described below:

- On 19 April in Huambo City, UNITA detonated a car bomb outside a building housing Cubans and possibly Soviets. The regime admitted that 14 Cubans were killed and 66 wounded and that 10 Angolans were also killed. A UNITA communique claimed that 200 Cubans and at least two Soviet military officers were killed. A TASS dispatch after the blast stated that about 100 had died, suggesting that the Luanda regime has significantly understated the casualty figures. A UNITA communique said this bombing initiated its terrorism campaign.
- UNITA claims that its commandos attacked the residences of regime officials in Huambo City on 25 May, killing a number of officials and destroying their homes.
- [] on 6 June UNITA bombed a Cuban residence in Matala, killing five Cubans. On the same day in Sao Joao, UNITA commandos set off two bombs, including one in the Angolan Oil Company Commissioner's office, that killed three Cubans and 12 Angolans. []

Civilians Not Targeted

Thus far in its urban campaign, UNITA apparently has tried to avoid casualties among Angolan civilians. We know of no urban attacks that were intended to cause large numbers of civilian casualties. Almost all deaths among the urban population appear to have resulted from attacks on military, government, or foreign targets. []

In cases where UNITA has directed terror at the populations of provincial towns, it has sought to instill fear through destruction of property rather than

indiscriminate killing. For example, on 18 May 1984 UNITA reportedly attacked four villages in central Angola, burning some 300 houses, destroying more than 40 other buildings including the hospital, and damaging all industrial and commercial property. Government defenders suffered about 40 casualties, and another 30 civilians were killed or wounded, but they were probably incidental victims of crossfires rather than deliberate victims of willful murder. []

UNITA's Capabilities for Urban Terrorism

We believe UNITA possesses the capabilities necessary to wage a widespread and effective urban terrorism campaign. UNITA has a large cadre of well-trained and well-motivated guerrillas, who have already demonstrated the ability both to attack provincial towns openly and to infiltrate urban regions undetected. []

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Prospects

Largely because its forces are not strong enough to capture and hold major urban centers—most importantly the capital—UNITA is likely to increase the intensity and geographic scope of its terrorism campaign over the next six months. UNITA apparently calculates that only terrorism directed at the ruling party and its Soviet Bloc sponsors will induce the regime to negotiate a power-sharing arrangement. While continuing its efforts to kill Cubans and lower level regime officials, UNITA will probably increasingly target Soviets and East Germans, and may attempt to assassinate one or more senior regime officials. Kidnapings of other foreign nationals and the destruction of foreign property probably will continue, although the success of this tactic in inducing foreigners to leave the provinces is reducing the number of targets. []

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Regardless of public relations costs, UNITA is likely to pursue its terrorist tactics at least until its leaders determine what effect the attacks are having on policymaking in Luanda. UNITA's leadership appears resigned to a negative response to its terrorism campaign in the West. When pressed by Western interlocutors, Jonas Savimbi acknowledges the damage to UNITA's image and claims that in principle he also sees the targeting of civilians as reprehensible. He stresses, however, that terrorism is a tool needed by UNITA in its struggle, and that UNITA is not hurting ordinary Angolans. UNITA's leaders may hope that by avoiding casualties among the populace and exploiting favorable press coverage of their hostage releases they can mute negative publicity in the West. []

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**Sri Lanka:
A New Direction for
Tamil Terrorism?**

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Tamil separatists are increasingly using terrorist tactics in their antigovernment campaign, and broadening their list of targets to include US and Israeli citizens and facilities. The Tamils believe the United States and Israel are colluding with the Sinhalese (Buddhist) dominated government in Colombo in its hardline efforts to pacify the largely Tamil (Hindu) north. One response to these developments has come from India, which appears to be cutting back its support to the Tamil groups—an action that could eventually force the Tamils to seek new patrons.

The Tamil Extremists

Tamil radical groups have been responsible for most of the terrorist incidents in Sri Lanka in recent years:

- The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are the most violent of the Tamil terrorists. This group has been responsible for some 120 of the 175 assassinations that have taken place since the mid-1970s, mostly on the Jaffna Peninsula. Founded in 1974 and led by Velupillai Prabhakaran, its 50 hardcore members are very well armed and disciplined (since mid-May, four of its leaders have taken cyanide when faced with capture). This group claimed credit for the killing of 13 soldiers in July 1983 which led to subsequent bloody communal rioting.
- The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) has about 2,000 members, making it the largest separatist organization. Its hard core of 50 to 75 extremists has been responsible for the deaths of about 20 persons, including seven police and military personnel. Its leader, Uma Maheswaran, has been feuding with LTTE's Prabhakaran since 1980.
- The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (TELO), founded in 1974, has killed several policemen and Tamil informers. It is currently led by Sri

Sabaratnam, who succeeded to that post after most of the previous leaders of the group had been rounded up by Sri Lankan security forces.

- The Eelam Revolutionary Organization (ERO) was founded in 1974. Seventeen of its members were subsequently trained by the PLO in Lebanon between 1976 and 1980. Roughly one year ago, a dissident group of members repudiated ERO's leader, Eliyathamby Ratnasabapathy, and founded the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (EROS).

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- The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) is the youngest of the radical groups, having been founded in August 1983 after the communal riots. Its current strength is unknown, but its armed offshoot, the People's Liberation Army, was the group responsible for the well-executed kidnaping of a US AID couple in Jaffna in May 1984.

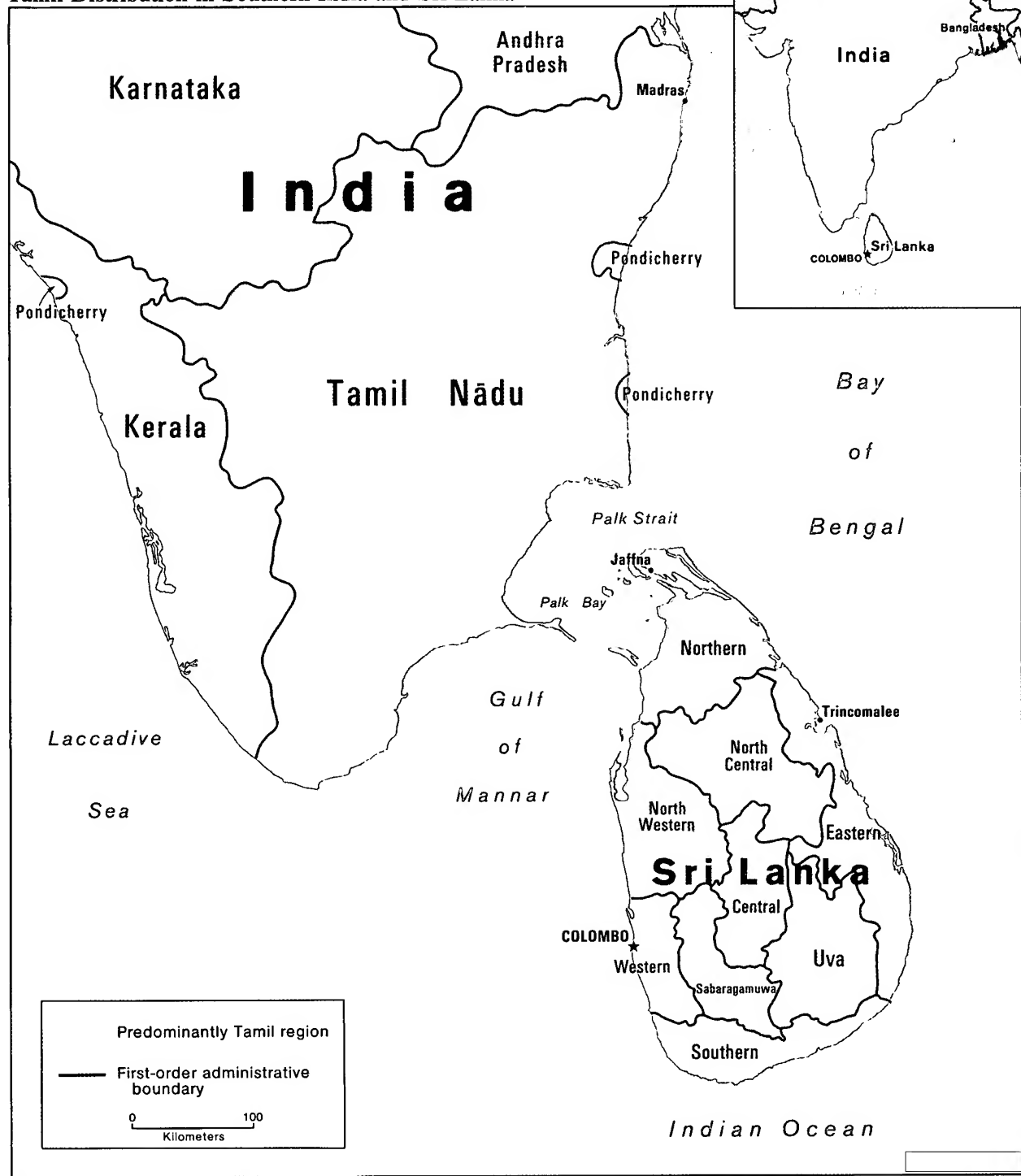
Press reports indicate that TELO, EROS, and the EPRLF formed an alliance in Madras, India, in the spring of 1984. The combined groups would have about 2,000 members, making them about the same size as PLOTE. these groups have very fluid memberships composed largely of young, educated, disenchanted Tamil males from the Jaffna Peninsula. The leaders continually form and break alliances. Rivalries among them are often very strong.

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Sympathy for the separatist cause is widespread among the Tamils both in Sri Lanka and in India, where they are concentrated in the state of Tamil Nadu, but serious divisions based on differing ideology, caste, and religious ties have so far prevented them from forming an effective united front. Disputes over leadership and policy have led to

Tamil Distribution in Southern India and Sri Lanka



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the assassination of leaders of rival factions, public executions of faction members judged to be of questionable reliability, and the arrest of several prominent terrorists in Madras (capital of Tamil Nadu) on charges of public brawling. Madras police raided the headquarters of TELO in mid-June and found that the group's leader was keeping two TELO members bound and gagged in a back room. Upon release, the two said that he had been interrogating them on their contacts with rival groups and planned to execute them as an example to other members of the group. [redacted]

The primary source of funds and support for all these groups is the local population in the Tamil-dominated areas of northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Some money is donated by sympathizers; a considerable amount is extorted by the extremists. Over the past several years, Tamil Tiger groups have also robbed banks, offices, trains, and other public institutions all over the northern part of the island, amassing large stocks of captured weapons and explosives, and collecting several million dollars in gold, jewelry, and foreign currency. [redacted]

[redacted] most of the arms and explosives used by the Tamil terrorists have come from captured stocks. Nevertheless, foreign-made materials are beginning to turn up in increasing amounts. Recently, the government found explosives being shipped from India to Jaffna in its patrols of the Palk Straits. [redacted]

Foreign Support

The most radical factions of the Tamil separatist movement have claimed for several years that they have been receiving extensive foreign support. Although a number of independent sources have corroborated some of these claims, we believe many of them to be outdated or overstated. In general, information on this subject is vague and not well substantiated. For example, the leader of the EPRLF said in an early June interview that his group had been trained by the PLO in Lebanon, but we know of only 17 Tamils to have received such training and none after 1980. For more than two years, the PLO has been in no position to provide such training in Lebanon. [redacted]

Tamil groups have also claimed to receive aid from the Provisional IRA, the Libyans, and, more recently, the East Germans. [redacted]

Indian Involvement

The Tamils' most valuable source of foreign support has traditionally been India. From the earliest days of the Tamil separatist struggle, Tamil Nadu has been a sanctuary for Tamil radicals fleeing the island. The state's large Tamil population has provided its "oppressed" brethren with food and shelter, and sometimes with arms. As the separatist struggle grew more violent in the mid-1970s with the birth of the Tiger groups, sentiment within Tamil Nadu for more official support also grew, and by the early 1980s the state government—presumably with support of New Delhi—was running refugee camps and providing military training for would-be guerrillas. Last year's communal riots that eventually left hundreds of Tamils dead at the hands of the majority Sinhalese and more than 100,000 others homeless led Indian Tamils to put more pressure on their government to increase support for the separatists. [redacted]

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It has not been established that these events were related to each other, nor even that they were all terrorist events. Nevertheless, they do suggest that Tamil terrorists may have changed—or be in the process of changing—their targeting practices. If there is a new terrorist focus on US and Israeli targets in Colombo and the north, it was probably fueled by increasing Tamil resentment over the perceived cooperation of the US Government with the Sri Lankan Government in its crackdown on Tamil extremists since last summer's riots. []

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New Tamil Tactics

Since the late 1970s the Tamil separatists had focused their attacks mainly on government targets and, less frequently, on members of the majority Sinhalese population. And they had confined their operations largely to the Tamil-dominated north and east. Since early May, however, new tactics have been evident:

- On 11 May, guerrillas of the hitherto obscure EPRLF kidnaped an American couple from a US AID water project in the Jaffna area, accused them of being CIA agents, and threatened to kill them unless the government paid a ransom and released 20 Tamil prisoners from Sri Lankan jails. After appeals from Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, which had been designated by the terrorists as the site for the ransom payment and the prisoner release, they freed the couple unharmed. None of the kidnapers' demands were met.
- On 14 June, the US Embassy received a letter threatening both the Embassy and the newly opened Israeli Interests Section. The letter was signed only with the phrase "Tamil Eelam Tigers," a generic term used by many of the more radical Tamil separatist groups.
- On 28 June, the hotel housing the new Israeli Interests Section (of the US Embassy) was bombed.
- On 30 June, a local Tamil US AID employee was approached by three Tamil-speaking men and offered a bribe to allow an unidentified package—perhaps a bomb—to be delivered to the AID offices. []

The local press may have ignited the necessary animosity by announcing the opening of the Israeli Interests Section, which is to coordinate the efforts of Israeli antiterrorist advisers who have come at the request of Colombo. The press speculated that the United States may have played an important role in bringing this about. Further suspicions of US motives were raised when the press revealed that President Jayewardene intended to discuss the terrorism problem during his visit to the United States in mid-June. The 14 June threat letter and a public vow by the leader of the EPRLF to conduct further kidnappings of Americans were timed to coincide with Jayewardene's trip. []

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[] in the wake of India's own communal troubles in June, Gandhi may have also realized that India's policy toward the Tamils represented a two-edged sword: armed and trained Tamils might prove difficult to control, and Indian support for Tamil terrorism could render hollow its own charges of a "foreign hand" in India's terrorist problems. The Colombo bombing on 28 June may also have figured in Gandhi's decision to curtail support, []

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Outlook

[redacted] the Sri Lankan Government intends to continue seeking a primarily military solution to the terrorism problem and will not make any major concessions at the communal reconciliation talks. If Tamil separatists continue to identify the United States and Israel with this basically hardline approach, further attacks on US and Israeli facilities in Sri Lanka may be forthcoming. There is no evidence at this point to suggest that the Tamils are likely to extend their terrorist attacks to US targets outside the country. [redacted]

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At the same time, recent events indicate that two of the more radical Tamil groups intend to carry their terrorism into the capital. On the night of 2 August, a suitcase bomb thought to have been the work of the EPRLF exploded at Madras airport, killing at least 29 persons and wounding more than 20 others. Evidence strongly suggests that the bomb had been destined for Colombo aboard an earlier Air Lanka flight. [redacted]

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Chronology

Below are described noteworthy foreign and international terrorist events and counterterrorism developments that have occurred or come to light since our last issue. Events and developments that have already been described in the Highlights at the front of this publication are not included.

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Late June 1984

Iran: Bomb Explodes at Soviet Embassy

In Tehran, a bomb exploded at the Soviet Embassy, causing serious injuries to the child of a Soviet diplomat. The attack occurred while the Soviet Deputy Minister for Energy was visiting Iran to negotiate the pumping of natural gas to the Soviet Union.

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2 July 1984

France: Action Directe Bombs Bank

In Paris, a bomb exploded at a bank, causing only slight damage. Action Directe claimed responsibility for the attack.

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10 July 1984

Jamaica: Firebombing

In Buff Bay, a constituency office of the opposition People's National Party (PNP) was destroyed by a firebomb. This is probably part of ongoing political violence between the PNP and the ruling Jamaica Labor Party.

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11 July 1984

France: Bombing Injures Basque Refugee

In a Saint-Jean-Luz bar, three people, including a Spanish Basque refugee, were injured from a bomb explosion. No group has claimed responsibility, but press reports indicate the Antiterrorist Liberation Group (GAL) is suspected.

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13 July 1984

Sri Lanka: Important Terrorist Slain

In Jaffna, the third-ranking leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was slain when he failed to stop his motorcycle on orders of a special task force. The LTTE has been responsible for the assassinations of more than 100 Sri Lankan security personnel.

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14 July 1984**Northern Ireland: Two Soldiers Killed by Landmine Explosion**

A landmine explosion killed two members of the Ulster Defense Regiment as they patrolled a country road within sight of the Irish border. Soldiers who rushed to the scene were ambushed with automatic gunfire from nearby woodlands across the border in Ireland. No group has claimed credit for the attack, but the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) is believed responsible. [REDACTED]

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Zaire: Terrorists Arrested

Near Kinshasa, the Zairian Army captured three members of the Congolese National Movement/Lumumba Faction (MNC/L) who had entered Zaire secretly. [REDACTED]

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Mid-July 1984**Italy: New Leftist Group Responsible for Recent Bombings**

On 14 July at Comiso Air Station (a US base), a bomb explosion damaged facilities of an Italian construction firm doing contract work. No injuries were reported. On 27 July in Rome, a bomb exploded outside the home of a senior official of the Italian Merchant Marine Ministry injuring his wife and son. The following evening in Selenia, two bombs exploded at an electronics company, but no one was hurt. A previously unknown group called the Communists Fighting Against Imperialism and Armaments claimed responsibility for all three attacks. Police believe the group might be composed of former members of the ultraleftist Autonomia Operaia. [REDACTED]

25X1

18 July 1984**Spain: Bombing of Government Office**

In Valencia, the Catalan separatist group Terra Lliure claimed responsibility for two bombs that exploded in a government office. There were no injuries. [REDACTED]

25X1

Spain: Burning of French Car

In Alsasua, suspected members of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) burned a French-registered car. [REDACTED]

25X1

19 July 1984**Spain: Shooting of Civil Guard**

In Vizcaya, a civil guard was shot and killed by suspected members of ETA. [REDACTED]

25X1

Belgium: Air Zaire Office Bombed

In Brussels, a bomb severely damaged the office of Air Zaire. No group claimed responsibility, but a number of Zairian opposition groups are active in Belgium. The terrorists may have been adherents of the Congolese National Movement/Lumumba Faction or the National Front for the Liberation of Congo, [REDACTED]

25X1

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20 July 1984

South Africa: Attacks on Colored Politicians

Near Johannesburg, firebombs exploded at the homes of four colored (mixed-race) politicians running for election to the new Colored chamber of Parliament. No group has claimed responsibility. []

25X1

South Africa: Bombs Disrupt Commuter Trains

In Durban, two bombs placed in signal boxes halted commuter rail traffic in Indian and black suburbs during the morning rush hour. Police found two unexploded bombs nearby. The African National Congress (ANC) probably set the explosives. []

25X1

Brazil: Overseas Chinese Leader Murdered

In Sao Paulo, the Vice President of the Overseas Chinese Social Center was killed by a single shot to the neck from a silenced 6.35-caliber automatic pistol. He was the second pro-Taiwan overseas Chinese community leader in Sao Paulo to be killed in this manner this year. No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the assassinations, but both the Sao Paulo police and the Chinese community suspect the Taiwan Independence Movement. []

25X1

Sri Lanka: Bombings Mark Tamil Anniversary

In Jaffna, a series of bomb blasts occurred as Tamils held demonstrations to mark the first anniversary of the bloody ethnic violence that occurred last year. The first explosion took place at the bus station early in the morning; other explosions occurred throughout the afternoon. No injuries were reported. []

25X1

Colombia: Honduran Consulate Bombed

In Barranquilla, the 19th of April Movement (M-19) claimed credit for bombing the Honduran Consulate to protest Honduran and US support of military operations against the Sandinista regime. The bomb damaged radio equipment but caused no casualties. []

25X1

21 July 1984

India: Canal Sabotaged

In Punjab, a 650-meter gash along the bank of the Khakra main canal has been blamed on Sikh extremists. Crops were badly damaged by the ensuing flood, and there is now an acute shortage of water downstream. []

25X1

Burma: Rangoon Explosion Wounds 10

In the Kemmendine Township of Rangoon, a young boy touched and thereby detonated an apparently boobytrapped handgrenade lying on a garbage heap. The explosion injured seven children and three adults. The Chinese-made grenade was the same type used in Rangoon on 21 November 1983 when three persons died and 11 were injured. Authorities suspect the Kawthoolei Muslim Liberation Army, a newly created group which has ties with the Karen National Union (KNU), may have been responsible. []

25X1

Secret

22 July 1984

Iraq: Kurdish Dissidents Release Hostages

In Iraq, the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) released six hostages—three Frenchmen, a West German, an Austrian, and a Turk—after negotiations with unidentified Austrians and representatives of the Catholic Church. []

25X1

23 July 1984

Colombia: ELN Bombs Chilean Consulate

In Medellin, National Liberation Army (ELN) terrorists bombed the Chilean Consulate, causing minor structural damage but no injuries. []

25X1

24 July 1984

India: Special Courts for Terrorist Trials

For the next six months, the Punjab State has been declared a "terrorist-affected area." The state has been divided into three judicial zones to facilitate holding speedy trials of accused terrorists. Special courts have been set up at Jullundur, Patiala, and Ferozepore. []

25X1

Peru: Marxist Leader Assassinated

The Mayor of Huancayo, a member of the United Left (a Marxist party that operates within the system), was shot to death by unidentified individuals. No group has claimed credit, and elements of both the extreme right and the extreme left (Sendero Luminoso) have been blamed by their enemies. []

25X1

25 July 1984

Spain: Policeman Slain

In Lequeitio, a policeman was shot and killed by suspected members of ETA. []

25X1

Guadeloupe: Four Killed in Bombings

In Basse-Terre and Point-a-Pitre, two car bomb explosions killed four people who apparently had been engaged in emplacing the bombs when they detonated prematurely. Authorities suspect they were members of the Caribbean Revolutionary Alliance. []

25X1

Israel: Palestinians Fire Rockets Into Northern Israel

Two Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory into the Bet She'an area of northern Israel. No casualties were reported. The Palestinian Struggle Front claimed responsibility for the attack. []

25X1

27 July 1984

Lebanon: Christians Abducted by Hizballah

In Beirut, two prominent Lebanese Christians including the press spokesman for former President Chamoun were abducted near the Green Line. According to the US Embassy, Hizballah is widely believed to be responsible. []

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[] the men may have been suspected of being Israeli operatives. []

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27 July–1 August 1984**Colombia: Terrorists Assassinate Government Officials**

On 27 July in Tulua, a Conservative Party official was shot and killed. On 1 August in Medellin, a parliamentary deputy of the Liberal Party was killed by two gunmen. Both of the victims were members of President Betancur's coalition government. No group has claimed credit. []

25X1

29 July 1984**France: GAL Victim Dies**

In Bordeaux, a leading member of ETA died from burns sustained in a bombing attack on 15 June by the Antiterrorist Liberation Group (GAL). []

25X1

Spain: ETA Hits Another French Target

In Renteria, suspected members of ETA hurled a gasoline bomb into a Renault automobile showroom. The showroom was damaged, but there were no injuries. []

25X1

Late July 1984**Somalia: More Terrorist Attacks**

In Hargeisa, the Somali National Movement (SNM) bombed the regional headquarters of the ruling party and claimed to have destroyed the city's radio and telephone center. The attacks were a continuation of the extremely active terrorism campaign in Hargeisa begun by the SNM in June. []

25X1

Israel: Kach Members Convicted of Terrorism

In Jerusalem, three members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach movement were convicted of involvement in anti-Arab terrorism. On 20 July, Yehuda Cohen received an 18-month sentence for plotting to attack Jerusalem's Temple Mount early this year. Later in the month, Yehuda Richter—the number-two candidate on Kach's list for the Knesset elections—and Mat Leibovitz were convicted of involvement in the March shooting attack on a bus in Ram Allah. Leibovitz received a sentence of 39 months in jail with 33 additional months suspended, while Cohen still faces charges of setting fire to Arab buildings and vehicles. The main trial of 20 suspected Jewish underground terrorists has been postponed until mid-September. []

25X1

Namibia: SWAPO Attacks Continue

In Namibia, bombs exploded outside two shops and damaged two buses parked near a school. The South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) probably was responsible for the blasts. []

25X1

Sudan: Authorities Net Terrorist Team

In Sudan, security officials arrested four Sudanese members of a Libyan-sponsored terrorist team. The team's target list included the US Embassy, the Sudanese President and Vice President, Libyan opposition figures, and various economic and military facilities. The sweeping nature of the targeting suggests operational planning had not proceeded very far, though the terrorists were already in possession of firearms and explosives. []

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30 July 1984

Italy: Journalist Kidnaped by Terrorists

In Nuoro, members of the left extremist Sardinian Movement (MAS) kidnaped a journalist and forced him to interview MAS leader Mele Annino. After the interview, the journalist was released unharmed.

25X1

Sri Lanka: Tamil Leaders Miss Meeting

In Jaffna, an attack on a railroad station by Tamil youths throwing hand bombs caused several leaders of the moderate Tamil Liberation Front (TULF) to miss their train to Colombo. The train left early for its own protection. Police fought off the youths, and no one was injured in the assault. The TULF leaders were to meet and formally consider President Jayewardene's proposal to create a second chamber of Parliament as a means of addressing Tamil demands for a bigger voice in government.

25X1

31 July 1984

Ireland: Extradition of Accused Irish Terrorist

The Irish Supreme Court ordered the extradition to Northern Ireland of Seamus Shannon for questioning in connection with the 1981 murders of Sir Norman Stronge (a former Speaker of Stormont, the province's legislature) and Stronge's son. The Provisional IRA had claimed credit for the killings. This is the second such ruling by a court in the Irish Republic.

25X1

Corsica: Major Arms Cache Discovered

In Bastia, police discovered a major arms cache containing antitank rockets and mortar shells, as well as printing equipment and documents belonging to the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) and the Council of National Committees—two separatist organizations banned by the central government.

25X1

1 August 1984

Lebanon: Israel Attacks Palestinian Camp

Israeli helicopters and gunboats launched an attack on a Palestinian camp in the Nahr al-Barid area near Tripoli, Lebanon. Radio reports indicate the Palestinians suffered several casualties, while the Israeli forces returned safely to their bases.

25X1

3 August 1984

Jordan: US Embassy Truck Bombed

In Amman, a US Government truck parked at the rear of the US Embassy commissary warehouse was destroyed by a small bomb. The explosion apparently had been timed to explode early in the morning when no one normally is present. Three Jordanians including a small child happened to be driving past at the time of the explosion, however, and sustained minor injuries. No one claimed credit for the bombing, but the modus operandi closely resembles that of two bombings of American facilities in Amman in May 1983.

25X1

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5 August 1984

Belgium: Bombing at Palace of Justice

In Antwerp, a bomb explosion caused extensive damage to the Palace of Justice. Police believe the bomb was planted by members of ETA in retaliation for the 14 July extradition of two Basque separatists from Belgium to Spain. There were no injuries.

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